



THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, containing almost 105 million items in nearly every language and format -- from ancient Chinese woodblock prints to compact discs. Founded in 1800 to serve the reference needs of Congress, the Library has grown into an unparalleled treasure house of knowledge and creative expression.

As the chief copyright deposit library of the United States, the Library of Congress receives about one million new items each year, half of which are selected for the permanent research collections. Additional items come through gifts and donations, exchanges with national and international institutions, and purchases.

The collections include the papers of the first 23 presidents, and manuscripts of eminent Americans such as Booker T. Washington, Walt Whitman, Alexander Graham Bell, Frederick Douglass, Irving Berlin, and Charles Mingus. Other treasures include the first printed book in the Western world, the earliest surviving copyrighted film, and millions of maps and atlases, photographs, posters, microfilms, movies, rare books, music manuscripts, and radio and television broadcasts.

The systematic acquisition, preservation, organization, and service of the collections of the Library of Congress is an immense undertaking, currently supported by a staff of approximately 4,700. In turn, the Library provides numerous free services to the nation's libraries, including books for the blind and physically handicapped, and the creation of catalog records which, distributed to all states of the nation, save American libraries an estimated \$370 million annually. The 26 million catalog records in the Library's database are available to 20 million computer users through the Internet.

Under the leadership of the current librarian of Congress, James H. Billington, the Library has embarked on a program to make its incomparable collections more widely available to the public. This includes a cable television program about the Library, an expanded exhibition program which travels nationwide, and the creation of multimedia digital archives to disseminate the collections electronically. In addition, Dr. Billington has established the James Madison Council, a private-sector group dedicated to helping the Library of Congress in reaching out beyond its walls and increasing awareness of and access to its unique resources.

The Vision

The National Digital Library will provide the widest possible access to the knowledge and information that is most important for educating and enriching a free society.

The Means

The National Digital Library will be a new network of information, knowledge, and creativity in electronic format, linking the resources of major repositories into a national bank of knowledge accessible by computer. This national knowledge network will offer scholars and citizens anywhere a chance to explore remotely this country's cultural resources through words, images, and sound, once the worlds of industry, learning, and governing unite with a common agenda for digitizing material and assuring access.

The Library of Congress' Role

The Library of Congress is the nation's library, founded on the principles of open access. For nearly two centuries, it has given this country the finest, largest, and most diverse collection of recorded knowledge the world has ever known. It is now possible to share these collections with everyone, anywhere.

At the beginning of this century, the Library of Congress created a cataloging system that revolutionized the ways in which books were organized and made accessible to the public. By assuming the major expense of cataloging, the Library of Congress provided major support to the library system of the nation. Today, the Library is committed to a new revolution, in support of libraries and schools, by making knowledge itself accessible in new formats. No longer confined by boundaries of time and space, the student, the business person, and the factory worker can now travel across worlds and centuries to read and learn from a vast common reservoir of computerized images and words.

Need to Mobilize Nationally

Many research institutions have been experimenting with digitization and new electronic services. There is clearly a substantial body of repositories with unique materials that could contribute to a national digital knowledge bank. There is, at the same time, a clear need for organizational leadership which can move rapidly to coordinate these activities without the long start up time and expense in creating a new bureaucracy. The Library of Congress necessarily plays a national role because of its work in preservation and conversion technologies, indexing standards, intellectual property rights and copyright registration, and digitizing audiovisual information. The Library already performs many key national functions, and is prepared to coordinate a major national mobilization of libraries, schools, businesses, and government to achieve our goal of sharing unique resources instantly and locally all over the nation and the world.

WHAT IS "IT"

DRAFT

What is the National Digital Library? A network of accumulated, digitized resources organized to be made universally available.

What does the National Digital Library contain? An accumulation of digitized resources, including books, pictures, maps, films, music and as well as services available electronically.

Who has access to the National Digital Library? Everyone and anyone who has access to a computer and a modem. The users include students, teachers, Members of Congress and state legislatures, the business community, librarians, and citizens at large. The computers can be located almost anywhere, including homes, schools, businesses, hospitals, shopping centers, libraries, and other institutions

What does the National Digital Library provide?

To the Congress

A way to link Congress to its constituents and to its Library
Improved service for Members of Congress and their constituents from their staff and the Library of Congress
Communication with the world
Tools to preserve and enhance democracy

To the Education Community

Timely retrieval of information
An interactive teaching tool
Communication with the world
An opportunity to improve American education
Liberation from time and space constraints
Elimination of national boundaries
Tools to preserve and enhance democracy
A way to improve literacy

To the Business Community

Better tools for people to do their jobs
Communication with the world
An opportunity to improve American competitiveness

To Libraries

An opportunity to re-invent librarianship
A way to distribute and provide access to library collections
A way to preserve library collections
A way to collect materials cooperatively

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**Library of Congress:
Special Collections Overview**

AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN DIVISION

- African Section offers reference and bibliographic services for sub-Saharan Africa through its bibliographies, yearbooks, directories, scholarly works; holdings include a large uncataloged collection of unique pamphlets;
- Hebraic Section is a world center for the study of Hebrew and Yiddish through its collection of more than 125,000 items;
- Middle East Section offers specialized assistance on Western and vernacular materials covering the Arab World, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and the southern borderlands of the former Soviet Union; collection particularly strong in Islamic religion and culture.

ASIAN DIVISION

- Chinese-language collection--580,000 volumes in Chinese--is the largest in the West;
- Japanese-language collection--730,000 volumes in Japanese--represents the preeminent research resource outside of Japan;
- Korean-language collection--more than 100,000 books and serials, including North Korean holdings--is the largest outside of East Asia.

GEOGRAPHY AND MAP DIVISION

- Largest, most comprehensive cartographic collection in the world;
- Four million maps, 53,000 atlases, 8,000 reference works, 350 globes, two million Landsat images, 19 portolan charts drawn on vellum by Italian/Portuguese/Spanish cartographers.

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

- Forty million items;
- 10,000 collections;
- Included in its collections are the records of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (the Nation's largest collection), 23 groups of Presidential papers (Washington through Coolidge), and Margaret Mead's papers.

MUSIC DIVISION

- Six million items;
- Holdings include copyright deposits from the 19th century through today;
- Documents the history of American music through books, periodicals, published music, manuscript letters, and scores dating from the 17th century.

MOTION PICTURE, BROADCASTING, AND RECORDED SOUND DIVISION

- Houses paper copies of films filmed prior to 1912, recorded sound from radio and television, feature films, classical and popular music, recorded political speeches, documentaries, filmed historic events, recorded ballet performances, recorded operas and symphonies, cartoons, television dramas and comedies, commercials;
- Preservation is a major concern.

PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

- More than 15 million photographs, prints, posters, and architectural drawings;
- Collections include Brady's photographs of the Civil War, negatives and print morgue of the turn-of-the-century Bain Photo Service, the Farm Security Administration survey of Depression America, and the Look magazine collection;
- Documents the history of photography-as-art through its holdings of such artists as Alfred Stieglitz, F. Holland Day, Arnold Genthe.

RARE BOOK AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DIVISION

- Collections includes more than 600,000 books, broadsides, pamphlets, theater playbills, title pages, prints, posters, photographs, and medieval and Renaissance manuscripts;
- Largest collection--5,700--of incunabula in the Western Hemisphere.

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Library of Congress: Technology Environment Overview

SOFTWARE

Software written internally includes 120 production systems consisting of more than 6,000 active programs. The number of lines of code in the online systems alone exceeds 2 million. The major legacy systems are MUMS (Multiple Use MARC System), a cataloging input system, and SCORPIO (Subject Content Oriented Retrieval for Processing Information Online), a text retrieval system. Other mainframe systems include systems for acquisitions and circulation control, and for copyright registration (COPICS).

Systems under development include a Z39.50 implementation, an Electronic Copyright Management System (ECMS), and two systems being developed in a client-server architecture with GUI interface--a serials inventory system and a congressional research inquiry tracking system.

Proprietary software used by the Library includes MVS/XA for the mainframe. Servers being used for Internet applications and development work run UNIX. Network servers run the Banyan VINES network operating system. Personal computers use the DOS, OS2, and Windows operating systems. TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) is the communications protocol used for interconnection, both internally and externally.

HARDWARE

Hardware onsite includes two Amdahl mainframes, two Data General mid-range computers, six UNIX-based servers, and approximately 2,500 networked workstations. The mainframe and Data General computers are devoted primarily to the legacy systems. The servers are currently used for Internet applications and client-server development. Networked workstations are replacing dumb terminals, and are used for desktop work and for accessing the mainframe and Internet resources.

Local area networks (LANs) use the IEEE 802.5 token ring protocol over twisted pair copper wires with fiber optic links (Premise Distribution System). LANs are joined into an internet with Cisco routers.

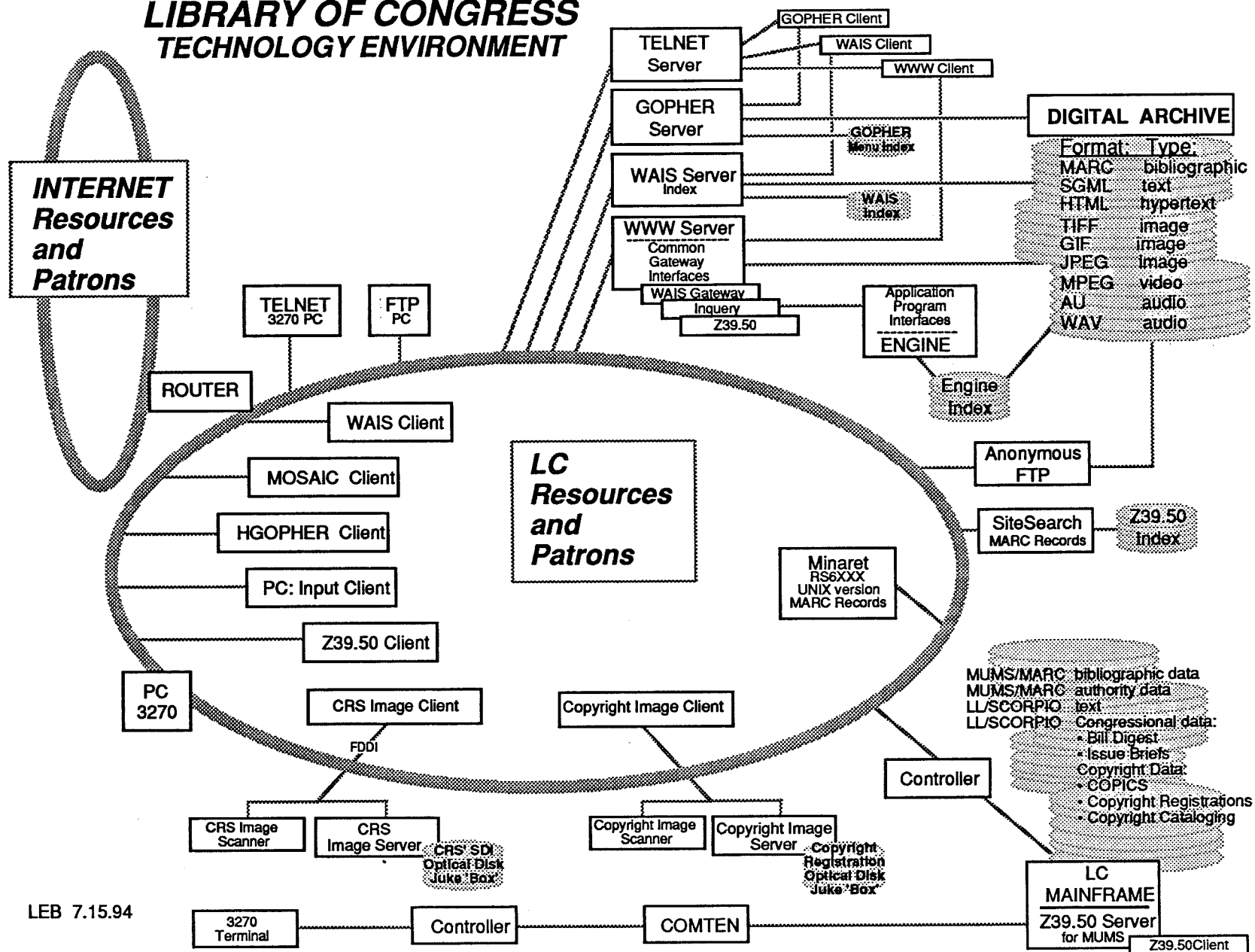
INTERNET

Internet connectivity to the regional, SURANet, is achieved at T-1 speed. Existing Internet applications include an anonymous file transfer protocol (FTP) site, the Internet LISTSERV system, LC-MARVEL (the Library's Campus-wide Information System based on Gopher), and WAIS (Wide Area Information Servers). MOSAIC/World-wide Web applications are being developed.

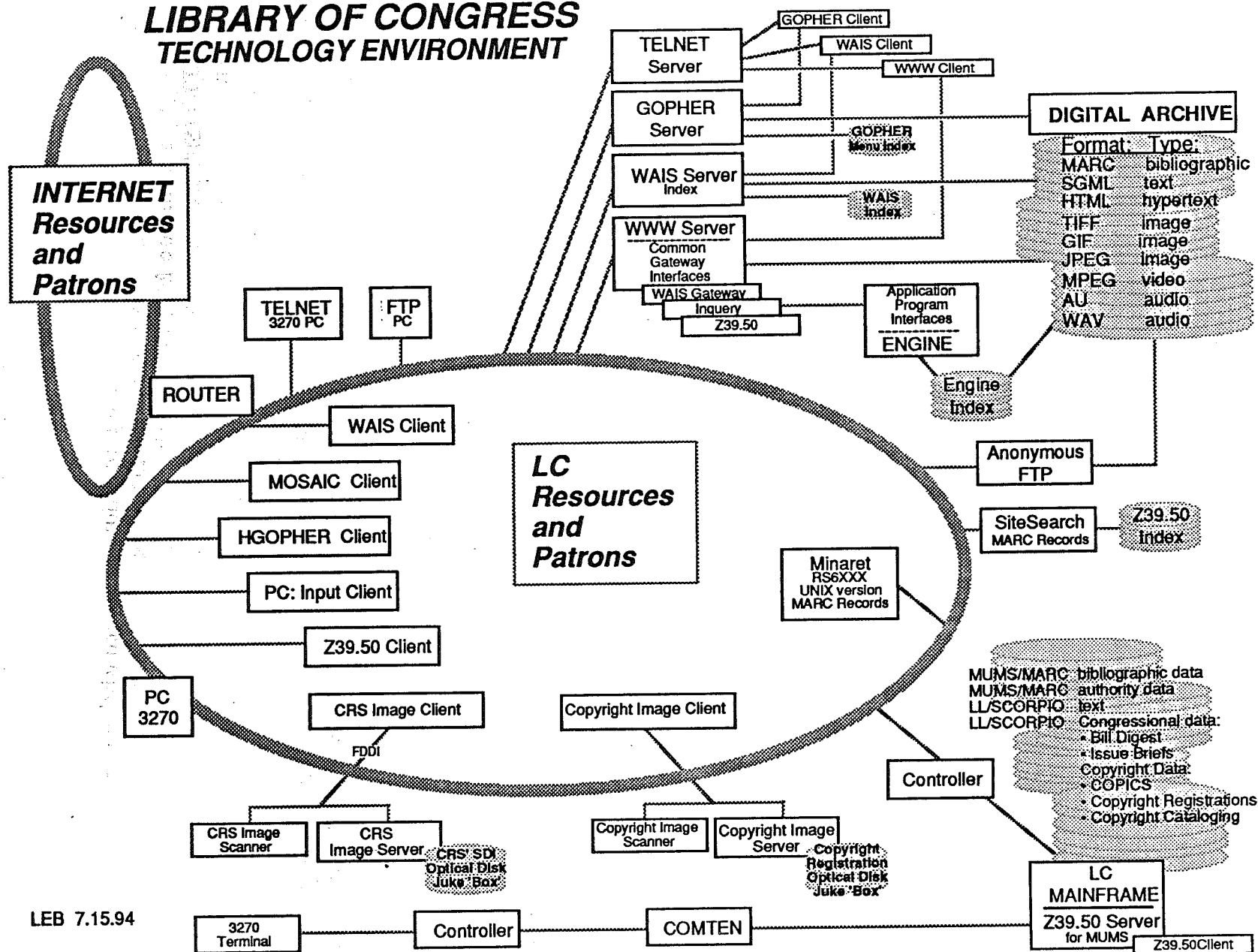
STANDARDS

Standards not mentioned above but committed to by the Library include UNICODE and SGML (ISO Standard 8879).

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TECHNOLOGY ENVIRONMENT



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Remarks:

Brewster suggested that you may like to consider attending this event in place of Brewster.

Please let me know if you need anything from the CA end.